

I claim:

1. A method for enhancing the color of gemstone(s), the method comprising:  
2     subjecting a combination of a gemstone and at least one finely divided form of a selected  
treating agent to a selected temperature for a selected period of time under conditions  
4     suitable to enhance the color of said gemstone; and  
wherein the enhanced color lies in the color spectrum of light yellow to red.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the gemstone is sapphire or topaz.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the selected temperature is in the  
2     range from about 700° C. up to about 1250° C.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the selected time period is in the range from  
2     about 3 hours up to about 600 hours.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the gemstone is cleaned prior to  
2     being subjected to the conditions suitable to enhance the color of said gemstone.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the treating agent is copper metal.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the treating agent is copper oxide.
8. A method according to claim 1, wherein subsequent to the treatment in the  
2     presence of the treating agent, the gemstone is subjected to a temperature in the range of  
about 700° C. up to about 1200° C. for a time period in the range of about one-quarter  
4     hour up to about 100 hours in a reducing environment.
9. A method according to claim 1, wherein subsequent to the treatment in the

2 presence of the treating agent, the gemstone is subjected to a temperature in the range of  
about 700° C. up to about 1000° C. for a time period in the range of about one-quarter  
4 hour up to about 100 hours in an oxidizing environment.

10. A method for enhancing the color of gemstone(s), the method comprising:  
2 subjecting a combination of a gemstone and at least one finely divided form of a selected  
treating agent to a temp in the range of about 700° C. up to about 1000° C., for a time  
4 period in the range of about 3 hours up to about 600 hours, under conditions suitable to  
enhance the color of said gemstone, wherein said treating agent consists of a finely  
6 divided form of copper metal or copper oxide; and  
wherein said gemstone is topaz or sapphire and the enhanced color lies in the color  
8 spectrum of light yellow to red.

11. A method according to claim 8, wherein the gemstone is cleaned prior to  
2 being subjected to the conditions suitable to enhance the color of said gemstone.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein subsequent to the treatment in the  
2 presence of the selected treating agent, said gemstone is subjected to a temperature in the  
range of about 700° C. up to about 1200° C. in a reducing environment for a time period  
4 in the range of about one-quarter hour up to about 100 hours.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein subsequent to said treatment in the  
2 presence of the treating agent, the gemstone is subjected to a temperature in the range of  
about 700° C. up to about 1000° C. in an oxidizing environment for a time period in the  
4 range of about one-quarter hour up to about 100 hours.

14. A method according to claim 8, wherein the selected treating agent is  
2 copper metal.

15. A method according to claim 8, wherein the selected treating agent is  
2 copper oxide.

16. A color enhanced gemstone comprising a gemstone having a color  
2 enhancing agent diffused into the outer surface thereof, wherein the gemstone is sapphire  
or topaz and the enhancing agent is copper metal or copper oxide.

17. A color enhanced gemstone according to claim 16, wherein said enhanced  
2 color lies in the color spectrum of light yellow to red.

18. A color enhanced gemstone comprising a gemstone wherein at least the  
2 surface has chemically bonded thereto a color enhancing agent, wherein the gemstone is  
sapphire or topaz and the enhancing agent is copper metal or copper oxide.

19. A color enhanced gemstone according to claim 18, wherein the enhanced  
2 color lies in the color spectrum of light yellow to red.